



25 October 2020

## October 2020 Michindoh COVID-19 Update

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

We continue to pray for you during these unusual times and trust in God's provision for his children. The following information is relevant for all guests, but we ask for your flexibility as we may need to update procedures as regulations change. We desire for Michindoh to remain a safe place for guests while also allowing the ministry connection and relationships that make camp such a special place.

### **How are retreat reservations being handled this fall, winter, and spring (through Memorial Day)?**

- The most important thing to emphasize is that groups should be in regular contact with Michindoh regarding any changes to their retreats (in programming, attendance, services required, etc.).
- **Low Attendance.** Michindoh should be made aware immediately if attendance below the minimum guarantee is anticipated. As long as this is communicated immediately and an ongoing conversation has been occurring, Michindoh is not requiring minimum guarantees be met.
- **Cancellations.** Michindoh should be made aware immediately if a cancellation is being considered. As long as this is communicated immediately and an ongoing conversation has been occurring, Michindoh will allow the event to be rescheduled without penalty. Michindoh will normally ask for a decision at least three weeks prior to the event, unless unforeseen circumstances occur. If there is a government shutdown of Michindoh, rebooking will be encouraged but refunds will be granted if requested (although immediate processing may not be available).

### **What is Michindoh doing differently because of COVID?**

- In the reservation and planning processes, extra efforts are made to provide space between different groups. This will involve things such as staggering meal arrival times and gym use, for example.
- Local and State regulations for food establishments are followed in the dining room which includes, as of today, the wearing of masks except while seated.
- There are a variety of different regulations for social distancing and group size that differ by event category (e.g. schools, universities, sports teams, religious worship, etc.). Each group must meet the State's requirements for their category of event. Michindoh is happy to assist groups learn about and plan for these requirements, but does not actively manage these items for a group except where Michindoh staff are directly facilitating (dining hall, facilitated activities, etc.).
- Michindoh has updated food handling and cleaning procedures that follow State and local guidelines.

### **What happens if a guest develops symptoms while at Michindoh or finds out they were potentially exposed prior to attending camp to someone who has tested positive for COVID?**

- The guest with symptoms or potential exposure will be isolated from other guests and assisted in making arrangements to be tested for COVID and return home. Others who are potentially exposed will maintain strict social distancing from others until the COVID test is returned. If the test is negative, everyone will return to normal programming and the guest may return to camp (if they were symptomatic, they must be fever free without the use of medication for 72 hours before returning or have a doctor's note). If the test is positive, contact tracing will be initiated according to local health guidelines, and anyone exposed will remain isolated and arrangements will be made for them to return to their homes as well.

**What procedures are groups responsible for?**

- **Health Screening.** Groups should screen guests upon arrival, which is at the home church or school if there is mass transportation being used, or at Michindoh if guests are being transported individually. Guests should not attend if they:
  - have a temperature above 100.4 degrees;
  - have been in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or longer) with someone who has COVID within the last 14 days (this criteria doesn't apply to those who have had and recovered from COVID and remain symptom free).
  - or have COVID symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, etc.) that are not due to a known condition (e.g. allergies).
- **Daily Cabin Cleanup.** Groups should conduct a daily cleanup of their cabin space that includes a disinfecting of surfaces (counter tops, door knobs, light switches, etc.). Disinfectant and a short checklist will be available in each cabin.

**How does Michindoh recommend you structure your event?**

- Use small group system. Small groups are made up of those staying in the same overnight unit, or multiple overnight units that are smaller in size. The recommended size is 8-16 max.
- Within each small group, basic practices that reduce the transmission of viruses should be observed (such as regular hand washing, sneezing into the elbow, and keeping personal items like toothbrushes in a Ziploc bag separate from others' belongings). Groups should evaluate and develop their own procedures for social distancing within the small groups as they see fit.
- Small groups then follow social distancing procedures between other small groups. Overnight accommodations, activities that do not allow for social distancing, dining table seating, seating in a meeting or service, and seating during transportation should be small group-based. When groups cannot maintain physical distancing from other groups, facemasks are worn and regular hand washing is encouraged.
- Should a guest develop symptoms or find out they were exposed to COVID, this structure will minimize any impact to just one small group, and greatly reduce the potential for broad exposure. This was how Michigan required summer camps to operate during last summer, and it worked very well. Campers actually had their experience improved, because they developed close bonds with their small group instead of 'getting lost in the crowd'.
- An excellent resources that may be reviewed for further consideration is in the footnote.<sup>1</sup>

We continue to be thankful for the friendships and ministry partnerships we have with you, and we are excited to serve you. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns, prayer requests, or ways we can continue to be a blessing to you and your ministries. Contact us at [travis@michindoh.com](mailto:travis@michindoh.com) or 517-523-3616. Blessings!

God's peace to you this day,



Travis J. Favreau  
Director of Guest Services

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<sup>1</sup> Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) issued *Guidelines for Camp Operations During COVID-19* on June 12, 2020, which can be found at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Day\\_Camp\\_Guidelines\\_-\\_06.02.20\\_-\\_FINAL\\_TO\\_PUBLISH\\_692694\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Day_Camp_Guidelines_-_06.02.20_-_FINAL_TO_PUBLISH_692694_7.pdf).